

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, and 21-24. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 21-24 are amended herein, and claims 5, 12 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17 and 20 remain withdrawn. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 21-24 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21-24 were rejected as being indefinite. The claims are amended herein to comply with the requirements of § 112¶2.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,533,168 (Ching) and U.S. Patent No. 4,748,678 (Takeda).

Ching allows a purchaser to track purchases using a purchase receipt that may include hand written notes using a computer system of the purchaser. In Ching, transaction information of a receipt, such as a transaction record locator and brief description of goods, is entered (see, col. 6, line 52 through col. 7, line 2) and annotations (handwritten notes or symbols) made directly on the receipt are decoded and stored in association with the transaction information (see, col. 4, lines 9-18). However, retrieval of transaction information in Ching is based on transaction information manually entered at the time of a transaction, such as a unique sales transaction locator number assigned to the transaction.

Takeda is directed to a system in which secondary data added to an original document are captured and stored in association with the original document (see, col. 9, lines 3-20). However, in Takeda, the retrieval of the document is based on a visual review and selection of secondary data by a user from a displayed table (see, col. 2, lines 29-40 and FIG. 12 and corresponding text).

In contrast, the present invention correlates an electronic document and information of a note including a character recognition result thereof to enable a user to search contents of the

electronic document and the recognition result using a search keyword input from a user.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites that the present invention includes "correlating and storing the electronic document not including the hand-written note and the information about the hand-written note including a character recognition result" and "searching contents of the electronic document and the recognition result in accordance with a search keyword input from a user", where the information of the hand-written note includes "image data obtained by taking a difference between a generated image generated from the electronic document and the read image".

Independent claims 8, 15 and 22-24 also recite that the present invention enables searching "contents of the electronic document and the recognition result" based on "a search keyword input from a user".

Proper support for amendments to the claims can be found at least from page 15, line 11 through page 16, line 3 and FIG. 6 of the present application.

Ching and Takeda, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a document managing method and apparatus of the present invention including searching "contents of the electronic document and the recognition result" of a handwritten note based on "a search keyword input from a user", as recited in each of independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22-24.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1 and 5-11 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 4, "said correlating and storing unit correlates and electronically stores the electronic document, a note image, and a recognition result of the hand-written note image". These features of claim 4 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

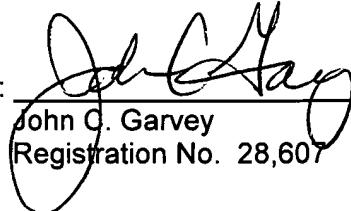
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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